



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



RODNEY A. STOKES  
DIRECTOR

Dear Interested Citizen:

The Department of Natural Resources welcomes your interest in improving fishing opportunities in public waters of Michigan. As a private party, you can stock fish into public waters of the State and to do so, requires a permit from DNR Fisheries Division. This permit is required to ensure that fish to be stocked are:

- 1) healthy and will not pose a disease risk to populations in the wild;
- 2) a species that currently exist in the watershed and do not pose long term management problems; and
- 3) a species that are compatible with the overall fishery management goals in a watershed.

The permit process ensures protection of the State's fisheries resources by preventing potential long-range and expensive problems before they occur, thus improving fishing opportunities for all.

The permit process follows the following four steps and is detailed in the attached materials:

1. *Determining if the water to be stocked is public or private.* Water bodies that have permanent inlets or outlets will require a permit, as fish will escape from these waters into public waters. If there are no permanent inlets or outlets, the waterbody do not require a permit. Waters with public access sites are also public waters. If you are unsure about the status of the water body you wish to stock, please contact any of our Fisheries Management Unit offices for assistance (see Table 1).
2. *Applying for a permit if the water body to be stocked is public.* If this is the case, you will need to fill out the attached application specifying what species and how many fish you intend to stock. This allows DNR to determine if the species is permitted for stocking, and if it is compatible with management goals established for the watershed. It is also important for you to determine if the source from which you intend to obtain the fish is free of certain fish pathogens (see Table 2), so be sure to enquire about the fish health certification status of the source you intend to use. DNR strongly recommends that any applicant obtain a copy of the fish pathogen inspection and certification from the source of the fish, as fish must be certified disease-free for stocking in waters of the state. Although providing a copy of the disease certification with your application will greatly speed the processing of the permit, it is not required.

3. *Submitting the Application.* After you fill out the application form, submit it to the Fisheries Management Unit (see Table 1) responsible for the watershed in which you wish to stock fish. If you need help determining the right office, feel free to contact any Fisheries Management Unit Office. Our fisheries staff will review the permit and provide you with either an approved permit or a letter detailing why the permit was denied.
4. *Stocking Fish.* Once you have an approved permit, you can stock your fish. Please be sure to contact our Fisheries Management Unit Office about the stocking at least 3 days before it occurs. Also be sure that either an original or a copy of the Public Waters Fish Stocking Permit is on site during the stocking. After stocking, be sure to submit the Public Waters Fish Stocking Report to DNR. These data will be input into our database and will become a permanent part of the fisheries management record for the watershed.

We are appreciative of your interest in our fisheries resource. If you have questions on this process, please contact a Fisheries Management Unit Office or Mr. Gary E. Whelan (517-373-6948, [whelang@michigan.gov](mailto:whelang@michigan.gov)) of my staff.

Good Fishing to All,

James Dexter  
Acting Chief  
Department of Natural Resources  
Fisheries Division

**Michigan Department of Natural Resources**  
**Fisheries Division**

**PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING PERMIT PROCESS**

January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013

- 1) It is the responsibility of the purchaser or their agent to determine if a permit is required to stock fish into a water body. If a Public Waters Stocking Permit is necessary, the purchaser or their agent must obtain the permit prior to any stocking event. A copy of the Public Waters Stocking Permit Application is in Attachment 1.
  - a) If the water body to be stocked is not permanently connected to any other water body, it does not require a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
  - b) If the water body to be stocked is permanently connected to public water bodies via an inlet or outlet, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
  - c) If the water body has a public access site, the purchaser or their agent must obtain a Public Waters Stocking Permit.
  - d) If unsure of the need for a permit to stock a water body, the purchaser or their agent may request assistance from any Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Management Unit Office. The offices and fisheries biologists are listed in Table 1.
- 2) The purchaser or their agent can obtain an application for a Public Waters Stocking Permit from any DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office, from the DNR website, or from many private aquaculture facilities.
- 3) The purchaser or their agent must return the completed Public Waters Stocking Permit Application to the DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office responsible for the watershed that is to be stocked. It greatly speeds up the application process if the most recent fish health inspection and certification documents are included with the application. See attached Table 1 to determine which office is the appropriate location or contact any DNR Fisheries Management Unit Office.
- 4) DNR Fisheries Management Unit will use the following guidelines in its review of the permit application:
  - a) Disease status of the private aquaculture facility – If the facility has a valid pathogen free certification for key fish diseases, then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the facility does not have a current or valid pathogen-free certification for key fish diseases, then the permit shall be denied until such information can be provided. If the fish have clinical signs of fish diseases,

they can not be stocked in our waters. For a list of key fish diseases see attached Table 2.

- b) Species analysis – If the species has been approved for stocking in waters of the state, then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the species has not been approved for stocking in waters of the state, then the permit shall be denied. The list of approved species for fish stocked are is in attached Table 3.
  - c) Management implications of the stocking – If the stocking action is consistent with DNR's management objectives for the water body and watershed to be stocked, then the fish can be stocked in public waters. If the stocking action is not consistent with DNR's management objectives for the water body and watershed to be stocked, then the permit shall be denied.
- 5) After review of the application, the DNR Fisheries Management Unit will determine if the permit is to be approved or denied based on Sections 4 a, b, and c above, taken in their entirety.
  - 6) Within seven (7) working days of receipt of the permit application, the DNR Fisheries Management Unit shall provide either an approved permit to the purchaser or their agent, or a letter of permit denial designating the rationale for denial based on Sections 4 a, b, and c above, taken in their entirety (see Attachment 2).
  - 7) Purchaser or their agent must notify the appropriate DNR Fisheries Management Unit of the actual date of stocking at least three (3) calendar days prior to occurrence of the stocking event. This notification can be done via letter, telephone, or e-mail. Upon receipt of notification, the DNR Fisheries Management Unit shall provide a response to the purchaser or their agent that notification of the actual stocking date has been received.
  - 8) The stocking permit must be available on site when fish are stocked into public waters.
    - a) If a private aquaculture operation stocks the fish, they must have the original or a copy of the valid Public Waters Stocking Permit on site during stocking.
    - b) If the purchaser or their agent stocks the fish, they must have the original valid Public Waters Stocking Permit on site during stocking.
  - 9) Within 14 days calendar days of the actual public waters stocking event, a signed Public Waters Stocking Report (see Attachment 2) shall be sent either by surface mail or email to the Fisheries Management Unit that issued the permit.
  - 10) Upon receipt of the report, the Fisheries Management Unit shall:
    - a) Record receiving the report.

- b) Enter the data into the DNR's Fish Stocking Information System database.
- c) Provide a response to the party that the report was received and processed.

**Table 1. DNR Fisheries Management Unit Offices**

<b>Basin/Watersheds</b>	<b>Staff</b>	<b>Office location</b>	<b>Telephone</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Lake Superior</b> All	Steve Scott Cory Kovacs George Madison	Newberry Newberry Baraga	906-293-5131 906-293-5131 906-353-6651	<a href="mailto:scottsj@michigan.gov">scottsj@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:kovacsc@michigan.gov">kovacsc@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:madisong@michigan.gov">madisong@michigan.gov</a>
<b>Northern Lake Michigan</b> All Upper Peninsula watersheds	Jessica Mistak Darren Kramer	Escanaba Escanaba	906-786-2351 906-786-2351	<a href="mailto:mistakj@michigan.gov">mistakj@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:kramerd@michigan.gov">kramerd@michigan.gov</a>
<b>Central Lake Michigan</b> Mackinac Bridge to Muskegon River	Mark Tonello Heather Hettinger Rich O'Neal	Cadillac Cadillac Twin Lake	231-775-9727 231-775-9727 231-788-6798	<a href="mailto:tonellom@michigan.gov">tonellom@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:hettingerh@michigan.gov">hettingerh@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:onealr@michigan.gov">onealr@michigan.gov</a>
<b>Southern Lake Michigan</b> South of Muskegon River to Indiana border	Jay Wesley Scott Hanshue Kregg Smith Brian Gunderman	Plainwell Plainwell Plainwell Plainwell	616-685-6851 616-685-6851 616-685-6851 616-685-6851	<a href="mailto:wesleyjk@michigan.gov">wesleyjk@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:hanshusk@michigan.gov">hanshusk@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:smithk34@michigan.gov">smithk34@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:gundermanb@michigan.gov">gundermanb@michigan.gov</a>
<b>Northern Lake Huron</b> St. Marys River to Au Sable River	David Borgeson Tim Cwalinski Neal Godby	Gaylord Gaylord Gaylord	989-732-3541 989-732-3541 989-732-3541	<a href="mailto:borgesdl@michigan.gov">borgesdl@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:cwalinst@michigan.gov">cwalinst@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:godby@michigan.gov">godby@michigan.gov</a>
<b>Southern Lake Huron</b> South of Au Sable River to Port Huron	James Baker Kathrin Schrouder Joe Leonardi	Bay City Bay City Lapeer	989-684-9141 989-684-9141 810-245-1250	<a href="mailto:bakerjp@michigan.gov">bakerjp@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:schroudk@michigan.gov">schroudk@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:leonardi@michigan.gov">leonardi@michigan.gov</a>
<b>Lake Erie</b> South of Port Huron to Ohio border	Liz Hay-Chmielewski Jim Francis Jeff Braunscheidel	Livonia Livonia Livonia	248-666-7443 248-666-7444 248-666-7445	<a href="mailto:hay-chmielewski@michigan.gov">hay-chmielewski@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:francisj@michigan.gov">francisj@michigan.gov</a> <a href="mailto:braunscheidelj@michigan.gov">braunscheidelj@michigan.gov</a>

Baraga DNR Office 427 US 41 North Baraga, MI 49908	Gaylord DNR Office 1732 M-32 West Gaylord, MI 49735	Newberry DNR Office 5100 State Highway M-123 Newberry, MI 49868
Bay City DNR Office 503 N. Euclid Ave., Suite 1 Bay City, MI 48706	Grayling DNR Office R#3, 1955 N. I-75 BL Grayling, MI 49738	Plainwell DNR Office 621 N. 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Plainwell, MI 49080
Cadillac DNR Office 8015 Mackinaw Trail Cadillac, MI 49601	Lapeer State Game Area – DNR Fisheries 3116 Vernor Road Lapeer, MI 48446	Twin Lake DNR Office 7550 E. Messenger Road Twin Lake, MI 49457
Escanaba DNR office 6833 Hwy. 2, 41 & M-35 Gladstone, MI 49837	Waterford DNR Office 7806 Gale Road Waterford, MI 48327	

**Table 2.** List of key fish diseases for the State of Michigan.

**Key Fish Diseases List – Coldwater Fish (Trout and Salmon)**

<b>Disease Agent</b>	<b>Disease Name</b>
<i>Myxobolus cerebralis</i>	Whirling Disease
IHN Virus	Infectious Hematopoietic Necrosis
VHS Virus	Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia
IPN Virus	Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis Virus

**Key Fish Diseases List – Coolwater Fish**

<b>Disease Agent</b>	<b>Disease Name</b>	<b>Species</b>
VHS Virus	Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia	All coolwater species
Ranavirus	Largemouth Bass Virus	Centrarchids – Largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, hybrid sunfish, redear sunfish and similar species
<i>Heterosporis</i> sp.	Heterosporis	Yellow perch, walleye, and the minnow family
Iridovirus	Sturgeon Virus	Lake sturgeon
Channel Catfish virus	Channel Catfish virus	Catfish species

**Table 3.** Approved list of species that can be stocked into public waters of the State of Michigan.

<b>SPECIES</b>
ATLANTIC SALMON
BLACK BULLHEAD
BLACK CRAPPIE
BLUEGILL
BLUNTNOSE MINNOW
BROOK TROUT
BROWN BULLHEAD
BROWN TROUT
CHANNEL CATFISH
COMMON SHINER
EMERALD SHINER
FATHEAD MINNOW
FLATHEAD CATFISH
GOLDEN SHINER
GREEN SUNFISH
HYBRID SUNFISH
LAKE HERRING
LAKE TROUT
LAKE WHITEFISH
LARGEMOUTH BASS
MUSKELLUNGE
NORTHERN PIKE
NORTHERN REDBELLY
DACE
PUMPKINSEED
RAINBOW TROUT
REDEAR SUNFISH
ROCK BASS
SMALLMOUTH BASS
WALLEYE
WARMOUTH
WHITE BASS
WHITE CRAPPIE
YELLOW BULLHEAD
YELLOW PERCH



## Attachment 1. Public Waters Stocking Permit Application



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

### APPLICATION TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

*Under authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended, **stocking fish into the public waters of the State of Michigan is prohibited without an approved permit.** Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.*

PERMITTEE INFORMATION						
Applicant's Name			Telephone Number (     )     -			
Street Address			City, State and Zip Code			
WATER TO BE STOCKED						
Waterbody Name	Size (Acres)	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Approximate Stocking Date
Name of Inlets and/or Outlets			Is Water to be Stocked Open to Public Fishing? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No			
Purpose of Stocking						
SOURCE OF FISH						
Facility Name		Telephone Number (     )     -	Manager's Name		Telephone Number (     )     -	
Street Address			Street Address			
City, State and Zip Code			City, State and Zip Code			
FISH TO BE STOCKED						
Species	Stock or Strain		Size (Inches) or Age		Number	
ALL FISH TO BE STOCKED						
All fish for stocking public waters must come from a facility with a certificate or report of fish health designating disease free status that includes all facilities through which said fish have passed.						
Aquaculture Facility has a Current Fish Health Certificate(s) or Report(s) of Fish Health?    Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>						
I hereby certify that all information provided above is true to the best of my knowledge.						
Signature of Purchaser or Agent _____			Date _____			

**Return completed application to:** SEND TO THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATERSHED TO BE STOCKED (see Table 1)

## Attachment 2. Public Waters Fish Stocking Permit and Report Form



Michigan Department of Natural Resources - Fisheries Division

### PERMIT TO STOCK FISH INTO MICHIGAN PUBLIC WATERS

*This permit is issued under the authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended. Failure to comply with the conditions of this Act and permit shall be cause for revocation of this permit. The penalty for stocking fish into public waters of the state without a permit is a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.*

#### PERMIT TO STOCK FISH INTO PUBLIC WATERS OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN

APPLICATION IS: ☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED (see attached denial letter)

Permit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Issue Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Action: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Signature Title Date

**LIABILITY.** Permittee hereby releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all liability to Permittee, its officers, employees and agents, for all losses, injury, death or damage, and any claims or demands therefore, on account of injury to person or property, or resulting in death of Permittee, its officers, employees or agents, whether caused by the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees or agents, in reference to the activities of this permit.

**INDEMNIFICATION.** Permittee hereby covenants and agrees to indemnify and save harmless, the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents, from any and all claims and demands, for all loss, injury, death or damage, that any person or entity may have or make, in any manner, arising out of any occurrence related to (1) this permit; (2) the activities authorized by this permit; and (3) the use or occupancy of the premises which are the subject of this permit, as well as any other state-owned lands. This indemnification and save harmless agreement shall extend to all loss, injury, death or damage, proximately caused or arising out of the negligence of the State of Michigan, its departments, officers, employees and agents.

***I have read the terms and conditions contained in this permit. I agree to abide by same and assume all the obligations contained herein.*** Approved applicants or their agent will be required to submit a report detailing the number and size of each species stocked.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Purchaser or Agent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

*Detach and Submit Private Fish Stocking Report Within 14 days of Stocking*

### MDNR FISHERIES DIVISION – PUBLIC WATERS STOCKING REPORT

*This report is required under the authority of Section 48735 of Part 487, Sport Fishing, of Act 451, P.A. 1994, as amended.*

#### PERMIT INFORMATION

Purchaser or Agent's Name Telephone Number  
( ) -

Permit Number

#### WATER STOCKED

Waterbody Name	County	Township	Range	Section(s)	Stocking Date
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#### FISH STOCKED

Species with Valid Fish Health Certification	Stock or Strain	Size (Inches) or Age	Number
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I hereby certify that all information reported by me is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Purchaser or Agent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Return completed application to:** SEND TO THE FISHERIES MANAGEMENT UNIT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WATERSHED STOCKED WITHIN 14 DAYS OF STOCKING (see Table 1)